



Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority

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LUCAS OIL STADIUM WILL BE MORE 'FAN FRIENDLY'

INDIANAPOLIS – When the new Lucas Oil Stadium in downtown Indianapolis opens in the fall of 2008, it will boast far more “Fan Friendly Amenities” than the existing RCA Dome, according to the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority (ISCBA).

ISCBA Chairman David R. Frick stressed that new catch phrase in a presentation to the board this week, emphasizing “state of the art” features that will make Indianapolis the envy of other convention and sports centers around the country. The \$675 million stadium is scheduled to be ready for the opening of the National Football League season in August 2008.

“Our retractable roof compared to the conventional domed roof at the RCA Dome is only one of many advantages the new stadium will offer,” said Frick. “Virtually every major feature of Lucas Oil Stadium provides twice the customer benefits of the old design.”

Three executives associated with the project gave summaries of the venue’s many virtues, which will meet the needs of the three major users of the facility – the Indianapolis Colts, the NCAA and the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association.

Representing the lead architectural firm, HKS of Dallas, Tex., Principal Bryan Trubey noted that concourses at the new stadium will be more than twice the width of the 15-foot-wide concourses at the RCA Dome, with some spanning as much as 80 feet. “Coupled with large public plazas surrounding the stadium and entrances at every corner, this facility will be exceptionally accessible for the disabled and fans of all ages,” he said.

Lucas Oil Stadium also will have brighter exterior lighting, 1,200 toilet fixtures compared to 665 at RCA and 58 permanent concession stands compared to 30 at the present site, and 90 portable concession stands compared to only 50 at the RCA Dome, Trubey said.

Commenting on what he called additional “creature comforts,” RCA Dome Stadium Director Mike Fox said vertical transportation at Lucas Oil Stadium will be among the best in the country. “Since field level is some 25 feet below street level, thousands will be able to walk down to their seats,” Fox said. “The new venue has 11 passenger elevators compared to only six at RCA and 14 escalators compared to none at the RCA Dome.” He added that graded ramps at both the southeast and northwest corners make the stadium fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Fox said other “fan friendly” features include easily accessible seating and family restrooms in all four quadrants.

Pete Ward, Senior Executive Vice President of the Indianapolis Colts, lauded the wider seats and greater legroom that will come with the new stadium, as well as the increased space for retail sales and food preparation and video replay boards that are three times the size of those at the RCA Dome. Additional linear message boards will be scattered in the seating bowl for better access to information.

“When you add the retractable roof and the retractable north window, Lucas Oil Stadium should be the perfect site for football on a nice fall day,” Ward said.

We are creating a fully accessible and enjoyable facility from the time you enter the stadium,” said Frick. “We believe ours will be second to none in creating a fan friendly environment,” he added.

Now under construction just south of the RCA Dome in the Hoosier capital, Lucas Oil Stadium will feature seven levels, a retractable roof and 63,000 permanent seats. It can be expanded to 70,000 to host NCAA Final Four men’s and women’s basketball games or the Super Bowl. The multi-purpose stadium also will be used for major conventions, trade shows and special events such as the annual Indiana Black Expo and Circle City Classic.

The new stadium is scheduled to be completed in time for the opening of the Colts football season in August 2008. Upon its completion, the RCA Dome will be torn down to accommodate a major addition to the Indiana Convention Center. That project is targeted for a 2010 completion.